

VISIT...

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Tutor Teaching Tips

Our Solar System (S)

MATERIALS

Leveled reader

Graphic organizer

Game cards

Graphic organizer;
Leveled reader

Before Reading 3–5 minutes

BUILD BACKGROUND: Ask: *How many planets can you name? Which ones are closest to Earth? Which are farthest away?*

PREVIEW THE BOOK: Show the child the front and back covers of the book, and read the title. Ask: *What do you think this book is about?*

Open the book to the table of contents and read the chapter titles. Ask the child to tell what he/she knows about each planet.

Show the child how to use the glossary by pointing to the word *orbit* in bold on page 4 and then locating it in the glossary. Read the definition together.

Look at the pictures in the book and read the captions with the child. Point out the boxes titled “Do You Know?” that provide extra information about the solar system.

During Reading 10–15 minutes

Ask the child to read pages 4–15 aloud. If the child has difficulty, read the pages together. Then ask the child to read them independently. Have the child work out unfamiliar words by looking at the letters and word parts. Tell the child to think what word makes sense in the sentence. If the child cannot work out the word, tell him/her. Have the child reread the sentence with the word and then continue reading.

After Reading 10–15 minutes

RETELL: Ask the child what he/she learned about the solar system from reading pages 4–15. If necessary, prompt by asking: *What else did you learn?*

GRAPHIC ORGANIZER: Have the child find the planets he/she has read about on pages 4–15 and locate the relevant information in the book to record on the chart.

CRITICAL THINKING: Ask: *Why are scientists so interested in studying other planets? Explain whether you think we should or should not spend money on space exploration.*

VOCABULARY GAME: Spread the game cards with facts face down on one side of the table and the game cards with the names face down on the other side. Have the child turn over a fact card and read it. Then have the child turn over a card with a name. Ask the child if the fact card tells about the name card. If the child is correct and the cards make a pair, the child gets to keep the cards. If the child answers incorrectly, or if the cards do not make a pair, he/she should place both cards face down on the table. It’s now your turn.

Home Connection

Have the child finish reading the book at home and complete the graphic organizer for the remaining planets.

Planet	Size	Inner or Outer?	Length of Day	Distance from Sun	Number of Moons	Weather
Mercury						
Venus						
Earth						
Mars						
Jupiter						
Saturn						
Uranus						
Neptune						
Pluto						

INSTRUCTIONS: Find the planets in the book and locate the information needed to complete the chart.

Directions: These game cards are two-sided. Print or copy back-to-back to make one set of cards.

Leveled Reader



Game Cards (FRONT)

Our Solar System (S)

This is the center of the solar system.

This planet orbits around the sun in only 88 days.

This planet is about the same size as Earth.

This is the only planet in the solar system that can support life.

No one knows where this part of our solar system comes from.

This is known as the red planet because of the rust on its surface.

This is the largest planet. It has 16 moons.

This planet has rings made of ice and gases.

The methane gas around this planet makes it look blue-green in color.

This is the eighth planet from the sun. It is Uranus' twin.

This is the smallest planet in our solar system.

This is an object made of ice and dust that streaks across the sky.

Directions: These game cards are two-sided. Print or copy back-to-back to make one set of cards.

Leveled Reader



Game Cards (BACK)

Our Solar System (S)

Sun

Mercury

Venus

Earth

Moon

Mars

Jupiter

Saturn

Uranus

Neptune

Pluto

Comet